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ACTION EA 19

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,CCO 00,SP 02,
SS 35,GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,IO 21,AID 30,SAJ 03,SAL 01,
ACDA 17,P 04,INR 07,L 03,H 02,RSR 01,/160 W

O R 260202Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5434
INFO AMEMBASSY AANGKOK 3936
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2278
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 804

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Zagby DATE 12/23/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH DCAB N(3)
EXCISE EXEMPTIONS ☐
CLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 5 SAIGON 4108

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: AUG 26 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES' CAMPAIGN APPEARANCE IN MY THO

REF: SAIGON 4056

1. FOR FIRST TIME DURING CAMPAIGN MEMBER OF THIEU/KY SLATE HAS APPEARED ON CAMPAIGN TOUR, GEN THIEU JOINED MEMBERS OF NINE OTHER SLATES (BINH/KHINH SLATE REPRESENTED BY LOCAL SPOKESMAN) IN LIVELY MEETING AUG 26 BEFORE SOME 5,000 PEOPLE GATHERED ON MAIN BOULEVARD IN CENTER OF MY THO. CROWD LIBERALLY INTERSPERSED WITH ARVN SOLDIERS, PERHAPS 30-40 PERCENT OF TOTAL, WHO TOOK ACTIVE PART IN QUESTION-AND-ANSWER PORTIONS OF THE PROGRAMS. THIEU WAS TREATED AS OTHER

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CANDIDATES (ALTHOUGH HIS LATE ARRIVAL AND EARLY DEPARTURE CREATED SOME DISBURBANCE, PARTLY BECAUSE OF ATTENTION OF THE PRESS). THIEU WAS HIS USUAL DIGNIFIED SELF, HANDLING QUESTIONS CALMLY AND ABLY. CIVILIAN CANDIDATES ON THE WHOLE REPEATED THEIR GENERAL CAMPAIGN TIES AND WE DID NOT DETECT ANY CHANGE IN THE CONTENT OR DELIVERY OF THEIR PRESENTATIONS ATTRIBUTABLE TO PRESENCE OF CHIEF OF STATE. DESPITE SOME JOSTLING AROUND THE QUESTIONER'S MICROPHONE AND OCCASIONAL HOOTING AND JEERING, ATMOSPHERE THROUGHOUT MEETING WAS GENERALLY RELAXED. CROWD WAS ATTENTIVE AND GOOD HUMORED DESPITE STIFF BREEZE AND OCCASIONAL RAIN SHOWERS. UNUSUAL NOTE TO THIS EXERCISE IN DEMOCRACY ADDED BY SPORADIC HEAVY ARTILLERY FIRE FROM NEAR BY US BASE AT DONG TAM PLUS OCCASIONAL BURTS OF MORTAR AND SMALL ARMS FIRE CLEARLY AUDIBLE FROM ACROSS MY THO RIVER IN KIEN HOA.

2. DINH TUONG PROVINCE CHIEF LT. COL. TRAN VAN PHUC TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER HE HAD NOT LEARNED OF THIEU'S ARRIVAL UNTIL 45 MINUTES BEFORE MEETING WAS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AT 0900. ALL CANDIDATES TRAVELED 65 MILES TO MY THO BY CAR SAVE THIEU WHO ARRIVED BY VNAF HELICOPTER.

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PROVINCE OFFICIALS HAD SCHEDULED DEDICATION OF SOCIAL WELFARE PUBLIC EATING FACILITY FOR SAME MORNING AT WHICH MINISTER OF PUBLIC WELFARE PHONG WAS TO HAVE PRESIDED; BANDSTAND SET UP NEAR MARKET AND CROWD ASSEMBLED, MOSTLY SCHOOL CHILDREN. ON THIEU'S ARRIVAL HE WENT TO THAT CEREMONY FIRST WHERE HE PRESIDED BRIEFLY IN PLACE OF PHONG. THIS ACCOUNTED AT LEAST IN PART FOR THIEU'S LATE ARRIVAL AT THE CANDIDATES' MEETING (HE ARRIVED AT 1020 DURING TRUONG DINH DZU'S PRESENTATION). COL PHUC SAID HE HAD PROVIDED ADDITIONAL SECURITY FOR PORTION OF ROUTE 4 (FROM SAIGON TO MY THO) IN DINH TUONG AS WELL AS OF COURSE SECURITY FOR MEETING ITSELF, BUT NO OTHER SPECIAL PREPARATIONS HAD BEEN MADE BECAUSE OF THIEU'S PRESENCE.

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3. MEETINT BEGAN PROMPTLY AT 0900 WITH HA THUC KY AS FIRST

SPEAKER. CROWD HAD REACHED ABOUT 2500 AND WAS RAPIDLY GROWING. SOME ARVN SOLDIERS WERE ON HND AND OTHERS ARRIVED IN A GROUP LATER. AT THIS POINT, HA THUC KY PLACARDS MOST NUMEROUS IN CROWD; SEVERAL THIEU/KY POSTERS WERE DISPLAYED ON THE SPEAKER'S PLATFORM ITSELF, BUT SO WERE POSTERS OF MOVEMENT OF THE RENAISSANCE OF THE SOUTH UPPER HOUSE "SOWING WHEAT" LISTS. PERHAPS THIS WAS RESULT OF TRADE-OFF BETWEEN THIEU/KY AND HUONG/TRUYEN MEMBERS OF LOCAL CAMPAIGN

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COMMITTEE. MANY FOREIGN PRESS WERE PRESENT AND VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE, PARTICULARLY WHILE THIEU WAS ON THE SCENE.

4. HA THUC KY KEPT TO FAMILIAR FORMAT, FIRST BRIEFLY REHEARSING HIS REVOLUTIONARY PAST AND SERVICE TO THE NATION, THEN INVITING QUESTIONS. HE WAS ASKED ABOUT PRIME MINISTER ALLEGED STATEMENT IN DA NANG THAT DEMOCRACY IS NONSENSE. HE REPLIED THAT A GOVERNMENT WHICH SEEMS TO WISH TO BUILD DEMOCRACY SHOULD SHOW GOOD WILL TOWARD DEMOCRACY, BUT PRIME MINISTER OBVIOUSLY HAS CONTEMPT FOR DEMOCRACY. SO HOW CAN WE BELIEVE

HIS POSTERS WHICH SAY THE THIEU/KY GOVERNMENT IF ELECTED WILL BE DEMOCRATIC?

5. KY WAS ASKED TO RECONCILE HIS STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD INCLUDE MEMBERS OF ALL PARTIES AND FACTIONS IN HIS GOVERNMENT WERE HE ELECTED WITH HIS BEHAVIOUR AS MINISTER OF INTERIOR WHEN HE APPOINTED ONLY DAI VIETS AS PROVINCE CHIEFS. KY REPLIED THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO APPOINT PCS. THAT HAD BEEN BUSINESS OF CORPS COMMANDERS. NO ONE PERSON AND NO ONE PARTY CAN CARRY THE BURDEN OF GOVERNMENT ALONE, KY SAID; HIS WOULD BE A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION WITH ROOM FOR ALL.

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6. KY WAS THEN ASKED IF HE HAD PLANNED A COUP AGAINST NGUYEN KHANH; HOW COULD I? KY MAINTAINED. KHANH HAD THE ARMY WITH HIM.

7. TO A PETULANT QUESTION THAT EVERYONE TALKS WELL BUT NO ONE DOES ANYTHING FOR THE PEOPLE, KY SAID "LOOK AT MY REVOLUTIONARY RECORD."

8. NEXT KY WAS AKSED WHY, AS THE NESWPAPERS HAVE REPORTED, HE HAS CALLED ON PRESIDENT JOHNSON TO INTERVENE IN OUR ELECTION? KY SAID HE HAD ONLY STATED THAT ELECTIONS MUST BE FAIR, NOT THAT ANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT SHOULD INTERVENE TO MAKE THEM SO.

9. REFERRING AGAIN TO HIS STINT AS MINISTER OF INTERIOR, QUESTIONER ASKED IF KY COULD POINT TO ANY POSITIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS HE HAD ACHIEVED, OR HAD HE JUST WORKED FOR HIMSELF? KY REPLIED THAT HE WAS MINISTER OF INTERIOR FOR 2 MONTHS ONLY, WHICH WAS NOT ENOUGH TIME TO DO MUCH, NOT EVEN TO RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS, A STEP HE HAD RECOMMENDED TO NGUYEN KHANH.
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ACTION EA 19

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,CCO 00,SP 02,
SS 35,GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,IC 21,AID 30,SAH 03,SAL 01,
ACDA 17,P 04,INR 07,L 03,H 02,RSR 01,/160 W

O R 261402Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5435
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3937
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2279
CINCPAC
ZE/AMCONSU DAANG 8?5

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 5 SAIGON 4108

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y

SUBJ: AUG 26 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES' CAMPAIGN APPEARANCE IN MY THO

REF: SAIGON 4056

10. KY WAS NEXT QUERIED (THIS QUESOLON MAY HAVE BEEN PLANTED) ABOUT INCIDENT IN HUE IN WHICH KY HAS ALLEGED, RDV CAMPAIGN WORKERS HAVE BEEN MISTREATED BY POLICE. KY RECOUNTED HIS VERSION OF INCIDENT AND SAID THAT REFUTATION OF HIS CHARGES BY THUA THIEN PROVINCE CHIEF WHICH HAS APPEARED IN TE PRESS IS NOT SUFFICIENT. BEFORE KY HAD EXHAUSTED THE SUBJECT HIS TIME RAN OUT AND HE WAS CUT OFF BY TIMEKEEPER, THE CHAIRMAN OF LOCAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE. KY WAS WELL RECEIVED; SEVERAL OF HIS REPLIES WERE APPLAUDED AND HE WAS WARMLY

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APPLAUED WHEN HE STEPPED ASIDE.

11. LIEU QUANG KHINH SPOKE FOR BINH/ KHINH SLATE. HE APOLIGIZED FOR BINHE ABSENSCE, SAYING HE WAS CAMPAIGNING IN CENTPAL VIETNAM. KINH THEN BEGAN TO EXPLAIN THE SLATE'S CAMPAIGN PLATFORM BUT WAS SHOUTED DOWN BY CROWD WHICH ALLOWED IT HAD HEARD THE PLATFORM ALREADY. KHINH NEVERTHELLESS MANAGED TO ESTATE SEVERAL POINTS, INCLUDING CONSITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS WHICH INCLUDE ELECTION OF PRIME MINISTER, REVISION IN MANNER UPPER HOUSE IS CHOSEN, ETC.

12. CROWD, WHICH APPARENTLY DID NOT TAKE BINH/KHINH CANDIDACY VERY SERIOUSLY, CHEERED WHEN FIRST QUESTIONER ASKED WHAT, IN ADDITION TO TALK, DID KHANH PROPOSE TO DO IF ELECTED? KHINH SAID THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO HAVE A GOOD CONSTITUTION, EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON A GOOD CONSTITUTION, SO THAT HIS FIRST STEP WOULD BE TO AMEND IT. HE WAS INTERRPUTED BY NEXT QUESTIONER WHO ASKED WHY THIEU AND KY HAVE FELT IT NECESSARY TO ASSURE PRESIDENT JOHNSON THAT ELECTIONS WILL BE FREE. KHINH REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW. THE QUESTION SHOULD BEST BE PUT TO THEM. KHINH RECEIVED

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LITTLE APPLAUSE.

13. AT THIS POINT, THIEU/KY PLACARDS BEGAN TO APPEAR. THEY WERE CARRIED ONTO SCENE LARGELY BY PEDICAB DRIVERS, ONE OF WHOM TOLD EMBOFF LATER THAT THEY WERE ACTING AT THE DIRECTION OF THEIR UNION.

14. NEXT TO SPEAK WAS VU HONG KHANH, WHO VIGOROUSLY ATTACKED GVN FOR ALLEGED CAMPAIGN MISCONDUCT. KHANH, SPEAKING WITH DIGNITY AND CONSIDERABLE PRESENCE, SAID PEOPLE HAVE RIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITY TO USE THE BALLOT. KHANH SAID THAT THE GVN TICKET HAS ALL THE ADVNATAGES IN THIS RACE, HOWEVER, AND THE CIVILIAN REPRESENTATIVESIBAS BEING "TRAMPLED." TUNA/VIET AND VNQDD PARTY WORKERS ARE BEING ARRESTED, BEATEN, AND EVEN KIDNAPED. HOW CAN WE CALL THIS DEOMOCRACY? AND WHAT

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HAS THE THIEU/KY REGIME DONE TO HELP HE PEOPLE? THE PEOPLE MUST RECOGNIZE THIS AND ACT. IF THINGS CONTINUE AS THEY ARE, THIS WILL NOT BE A GOOD ELECTION(KHONG TOT DEP LAM).

15. KHANH THEN TURNED PLATFORM OVER TO LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE WHO BEGAN TO RECITE KHANH'S BACKGROUND. HE WAS INTERRPUTED BY QUFSTIONER WHO ASKED FOR EVIDENCE OF GVN MISCONDUCT DURING

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THE CAMPAIGN -- PLACES, NAMES? LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO FINISH PREPARED PORTION OF HIS SPECH. QUESTIONER SHOT BACK THAT IF SPEECHES ARE DRAGGED OUT FOREVER, THERE WOULD BE NOT IME FOR QUESTIONS. AT THIS POINT KHANH INTERVENED TO SAY THAT HE WAS OF COURSE HAD THE EVIDENCE AND THAT IT HAD BEEN PRESENTED TO THE PUBLIC IN A PRESS CONFERENCE (REF SAIGON 4056).

16. NEXT QUERY WAS WHY HAD KHANH SERVED THE FRENCH BY WORKING FOR THEM AS MINISTER OF YOUTH. KHANH HAD BEGUN TO REPLY, STATING THAT AT THAT PERIOD IN HISTORY THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE HAD TWO ENIMEIES, THE FRENCH AND THE COMMUNISTS,WHEN HIS TIME RAN OUT. CROWD APPLAUDED POLITELY.

17. CROWD HAD GROWN TO NEARLY 5,000 BY THIS TIME, A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF WHOM WERE MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM THE 7TH DIVISION. A GROUP OF THEM MOVED FORWARD AS KHANH CONCLUDED HIS DELIVERY AND MORE OR LESS SURROUNDED THE MICROPHONE USED BY QUESTIONERS. AT NO TIME WERE CIVILKANS TOTALLY BARRED FROM THE ARA, BUT THERE WAS A CONSIDERABLE PRESS FROM THIS POINT ON AND MOST QUESTIONERS HAD TO DO A LITTLE PUSHING AND SHOVING TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE MICROPHONE.

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18. SUU/DAN SLATE HAD THE FLOOR NEXT. SUU SPOKE BRIEFLY IN GENERALITIES, SAYING PEOPLE MUST CHOOSE THEIR LEADERS CAREFULLY. HE ALSO DENIED THAT HE HAD EVER BEEN PRO-FRENCH. DR. DAN THEN TOOK OVER WITH FORCEFUL PRESENTATION.

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THERE ARE TWO PROBLEMS, HE SAID: WAR VS PEACE, AND THE ELECTIONS THEMSELVES. DR. DAN NOTED THAT ON HIS WAY TO MY THO THAT MORNING HE HAD NOTED HOW RICH THE DINH TUONG COUNTRY-SIDE IS. VIETNAM IS RICH ENOUG TO NEED NO FOREIGN AID, IF ONLY THERE WERE PEACE. HOW TO BRING PEACE? THE USE OF FORCE HAS FAILED, DR. DAN SAID. THE OTHER WAY IS TO HAVE AND INDEP-ENDENT VIETNAMESE THE BRITISH HAD MADE AN INDEPENDENT INDIA AND PAKISTAN. THE COMMUNISTS ARE ONLY A MINORITY. (NOTE: THIS REMARK IS NOT CLEAR IN THE GIVEN CONTEXT.) DR. DAN CONTINUED THAT THIS PAST YEAR THE WAR HAS BEEN ESCALATED UNN-ECESSARILY. ONEMILLION MEN, PLANES, TANKS, ALLHAVE BEEN ADDED, AND OUR STRENGTH IS GREATER THAN NVN. WE HAVE NOT WON. (AT THIS POINT ARTILLERY FIRE FROM NEAR BY US BASE AT DONG TAM, WHICH HAD BEEN HEARD THROUGHOUT MONRING, IN-CREASED SLIGHTLY, BUT DR. DAN MADE NO ALLUSION TO THE UNS CHEDULED SOUND EFFECTS).
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ACTION EA 19

INFO NSCE 00 CIAE 00 SSO 00 DODE 00 USIE 00 NSAE 00 CCO 00 SP 02
SS 35 GPM 03 SC 01 NSC 10 RSC 01 IO 21 AID 30 SAH 03 SAL 01
ACDA 17 P 04 INR 07 L 03 H 02 RSR 01 /160 W

O R 261402Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5436
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3938
AMCONSUL DANANG 806
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2280
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4108 SECTION 3 OF 5

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: AUGUST 26 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES' CAMPAIGN APPEARANCE IN MY THO

REF: SAIGON 4056

19. DR. DAN WAS INTERRUPTED THEN BY QUESTIONS, "ZUE CADIDATES ARE TRYING TO DEFAME EACH OTHER, IS THAT VIRTUE?" THE QUESTIONER WAS HOOTED DOWN. THESE WAS SOME COMMOTION AROUND THE SPEAKERS STAND, WITH JOSTLING BETWEEN CIILIANS AND MILITARY. NEXT QUESTION WAS NOT HEARD, BUT SUU'S REPLY WAS "THE JUNTA TORE UP THE CONSTITUTION, SO WHY SHOULD I HAVE STAYED IN POWER? I WITHDREW TO KEEP MY SELF RESPECT."

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20. SUU WAS THEN ASKED WHAT HE THOUGHT OFSDAN'S STATEMENT THAT SUU WAS INDECISIVE IN SMALL THINGS BUT DECISIVE WHERE THE ISSUES ARE IMPORTANT. SUU ANSWERED THAT "A PERSON I S INDECISIVE WHEN HE DOES NOT HAVE A POSITION OF HIS OWN. BUT I HAVE A POLICY, AND I WILL NOT BE INDECISIVE. WHEN I WAS ARRESTED I WAS TORTURED AND BEATEN FOR NOT MENTIONING OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CONSPIRACY--"TIME RAN OUT AT THAT POINT. CROWD, WHICH HAD ALTERNATELY HOOED AND APPLAUDED BOTH QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WHEN THEY COULD HEAR EITHER, GAVE SUU AN DAN POLITE BUT NOT ENTHUSIASTIC APPLAUSE.
21. CROWD INTEREST WAS INCREASING A TRUONG DINH DZU ROSE TO SPEAK. THERE WAS QUITE A PRESS AROUND SPEAKERS PLATFORM AND QUESTIONERS' MICROPHONE; ADDITIONAL THIEU/KY PLACARDS WERE TO BE SEEN. DZU, SPEAKING WITH HIS USUAL FLAIR, THANKED THE AUDIENCE FOR COMING TO HEAR HIM AND REMINDED THEM OF NEED FOR DECORUM. DZU SAID THAT HE IS KNOWN AS A PEACE CANDIDATE. THE WAR MUST BE DECIDED BY VIETNAMESE. PEACE, HOWEVER, MUST BE WITH HONOR, AND NOT LIKE THE PEACE OTBAINED AT GENEVA IN 1954. PEACE IS FOR THE PEOPLE OF BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH VITNAM. THERE MUST BE A LOGICAL

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PEACE, CONCLUDED ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL CONCESSIONS BY NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM. SOME PEOPLE SAY TO TALK ABOUT PEACE IS TO TALK ABOUT SURRENDER TO THE VIET CONG. WHY, AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF WAR, CAN WE NOT APPEAL FOR PEACE?
22. THE FIRST QUESTIONER ASKED WHAT DZU WOULD DO IF THE VC WOULD NOT AGREE
TO NEGOTIATE. DZU REPLIED THAT PEACE
OR NOT, WE MUST HAVE A JUST CAUSE. UP TO NOW, OUR CAUSE HAS NOT BEEN JUST. WE HAVE ASKED THE AMERICANS TO HELP US, BUT WE HAVE NO MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT (HIEP UOC HO THUONG). IF ELECTED, I WILL OBTAIN SUCH AN AGREEMENT. IF HANOI REFUSES TO NEGOTIATE, THEN I COULD CALL ON THE PEOPLE TO FIGHT BECUSE WE WOULD HAVE A JUST CAUSE. BUT

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NOW, THE SOLDIERS DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY ARE FIGHTING FOR.
23. DZU WAS NEXT ASKED ABOUT THE LAW ABROGATING THE BUDDHIST CHARTER AD PROMULGATING A NEW CHARTER. AS DZU BEGAN HIS REPLY, GENERAL THIEU MADE HIS APPERANCE, WALKING TO THE PLATFORM THROUGH THE CROWD. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY NGUYEN VAN LOC AND ONE OR TWO GUARDS. CROWD AND PRESS ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY FOCUSED ON THE CHIEF OF STATE, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOTHING SPECIAL TO ATTRACT IT.

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AS THIEU WAS MAKING HIS WAY TO THE PLATFORM, DZU REPLIED TO THE QUESTION ABOUT THE BUDDHIST CHARTER. HE SAID AS A LAWYER, HE CONSIDERS THE NEW CHARTER UNCONSTITUTIONAL. GENERAL THIEU, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE, WHICH HAS BEEN EXTENDED, DOES NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO PROMULGATE THE NEW CHARTER. THERE HAS BEEN NO BUDDHIST CONVENTION. ACCORDING TO RTCLE 35 OF THE OLD CHARTER, THERE MUST BE A TWO-THIRDS VOTE IN SUCH A CONVEN-TON TO VALIDATE A NEW CHARTER.
24. NEXT SERIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ACCOMPANIED BY MIXED CHEERS AND JEERS BY CLAQUES. QUESTIONER SHOUTED HE REJECTED DZU'S CONCEPT OF PEACE BECAUSE THERE WERE NO PRE-CONDITIONS STATED. DZU REPLIED HE DID HAVE PRE-CONDIDTIONS, ONE OF WHICH WOULD BE TO STOP BOMBING THE NORTH. SOMEONE SHOUTED "DOWN WITH THAT!" TIMEKEEPER, WHO HAD INTERVENED MILDLY ON SEVERAL PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, DID SO AGAIN BUT WITH LITTLE NOTICEABLE AFFECT AS CROWD SEEMED TO ENJOY THE HECKLING. NEXT QUESTION WHICH COULD BE HEARD WAS, WELL, WHAT WOULD YOU DO? DZU SAID HE WOULD ASK THE COMMANDERS OF THE US AND VIETNAMESE MILITARY FORCES TO STOP THE BOMBING. THEN, HE SAID, I WOULD ASK HANOI TO TALK. AND I WOULD HAVE TO TALK WITH THE NATIONAL LIBERATION

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FRONT. THIS IS MY PROGRAM. YOU CAN ACCEPT IT OR REJECT IT. ONE MAN IN THE CROWD SHOUTED "THE SOLDIERS HAVE SHED TOO

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MUCH BLOOD TO ACCEPT DEFEAT SO EASILY." AS DZU STEPPED DOWN THEREWERE CHEERS AND APPLAUSE.
25. GERNRAL THIEU SPOKE NEXT, FIRST STRKING A PERSONAL NOTE. HE SAID HE IS FAMILIAR TO THE PEOPLE OF DINH TUONG; I HAVE BEEN STATIONED IN IV CORPS. I HOPE THE PEOPLE CONSIDER ME AS A FELLOW CITIZEN AND THE SOLDIERS A COMRADE. I HAVE TRIED TO KEEP MY IDENTITY AS A SOLDIER AND NOT TO BECOME A DEMAGOGUE.
26. DURING THESE PAST TWO YEARS WE HAVE SEEN OUR COUNTRY INVADED. THERE IS NEED FOR A SOCIAL REVOLUTION....WE MUST BOTH DEFEAT THE COMMUISTS AND HELP THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE TO DEVELOP BETTER LIFE IN FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY. NOW, WHAT HAS OUR GOVERNMENT DONE THESE PAST TWO YEARS? WE HAVE NOT, IN THIS TIME, BEEN ABLE TO COMPLETE THE TASK OF DEFEATING THE COMMUNISTS AND BUILDING DEMOCRACY. RESULTS HAVE BEEN SMALL. BUT WE BUNKER

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ACTION EA 19

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SS 35,GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,IO 21,AID 30,SAH 03,SAL 01,
ACDA 17,P 04,INR 07,L 03,H 02,RSR 01,/160 W

O R 261402Z AUG67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5437
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3939
AMCONSUL DANANG 807
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2281
CINCPAC

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HAVE WORKED WITH DEVOTION AND GOOD WILL. AS A SOLDIER, I DO NOT LIKE TO TALK NONSENSE. IF YOU KNOW THAT WE HAVE TRIED, THAT WE HAVE DEVOTION AND GOOD WILL BUT THAT WE HAVE NOT YET HAD THE TIME TO FINISH THE JOB, THEN YOU WILL CONTINUE TO TRUST IN US. THAT IS WHAT I BELIEVE. IF WE ARE ELECTED, THE FOUR FOLLOWING YEARS MAY NOT BE ENOUGH. WE CANNOT DO EVERYTHING. HOWEVER, WE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ACHIEVE DEMOCRACY, VICTORY, AND SOCIAL PROGRESS.

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27. I WOULD LIKE TO REPEAT THREE THINGS WHICH YOU MAY HAVE HEARD ME SAY BEFORE. ONE IS SETTLEMENT OF THE WAR (GIAI QUYET CHIEN TRANH). I DO NOT THINK THAT IT IS EASY TO OBTAIN PEACE, BUT I TRUST IN YOUR EFFORTS. IF I AM ELECTED, I WILL TELL HANOI, I AM THE LEGALLY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE--WHICH THE NLF IS

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NOT. I WILL SEND HANOI A MESSAGE DEMONSTRATING MY GOOD WILL AND SUGESTING A SETTLEMENT. IF HANOI ACCEPTS, AND WANTS ME TO DISPLAY SOME GESTURE OF GOOD WILL AS A CONDITION FOR NEGOTIATIONS, I WILL RECOMMEND A BOMBING PAUSE OF ONE WEEK. BUT IF HANOI CONTINUES ITS INFILTRATION, THEN WE WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CONTINUE TO FIGHT. NOW, MILITARILY WE ARE STRONG, BUT POLITICALLY WE ARE WEAK...
28. AT THIS POINT, THIEU WAS INTERRUPTED BY A QUESTIONER WHO SAID YOUR PROGRAM SOUNDS GOOD, BUT CAN YOU GUARANTEE THAT IT WILL BE CARRIED OUT? ALSO, THE CIVILIAN CANDIDATES ACCUSE YOU OF TRYING TO RIG THE ELECTIONS AND UNFAIR PRESSURE TACTICS. WILL YOU SEEK REVENGE ON YOUR ENEMIES IF YOUR ARE ELECTED? GENERAL THIEU ANSWERED THAT ALL THE PROGRAMS SOUND GOOD. I DEPEND ON THE SUPPORT FO THE ARMY AND THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW THAT I AM BOTH HONEST AND SINCERE. AS

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FOR UNFAIR TACTICS, THAT DOES NOT DEPEND ON THE AUTHORITIES BUT ON THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES. AS FOR THE SPECIFIC CHARGES THEMSELVES, I WILL ASK FOR EVIDENCE. SUPPOSE WE ARE ELECTED AND THERE IS EVIDENCE THE EW:589, J 2343 7:1-84. THEN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CAN INVALIDATE THE ELECTIONS.
29. NEXT QUESTIONER, AN ARVN ENLISTED MANWU SAID I AM A SOLDIER AND I KNOW THERE IS MUCH INJUSTICE AND FAVORITISM IN THE ARMY. AND I KNOW THAT OUR PAY IS TOO LOW TO KEEP UP WITH THE COST OF LIVING. GENERAL THIEU REPLIED THAT EACH CO'MANDER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF JUSTICE IN HIS UNIT. AS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE SOLDIERS' LIFE, THAT TAKES TIME. I HAVE PLANNED NOT ONLY TO IMPROVE THE PAY OF SOLDIERS BUT ALSO TO HELP THEM AFTER LEAVING THE ARMY. I HAVE LIVED THE LIFE OF A SOLDIER AND I KNOW YOUR PROBLEMS. THIEU THEN REMINISCED A LITTLE ON HIS EXPERIENCES IN CA MAU, THE LEECHES, ETC.
30. THE THIRD QUESTIONER WAS AN RF SOLDIER. HE SAID THAT ACCORDING TO DECREE 16/66, PERSONNEL WHO HAVE COMPLETED MILITARY SERVICE MAY BE DISCHARGED, BUT IT IS NOT OBSERVED. FURTHERMORE, THE MEN ARE OPPRESSED, THEREFORE THE DESERT AND TH.N THEY ARE ARRESTED AND SENT OFF

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AS LABORERS TO COMBAT UNITS. WHAT DO YOU THINK? GENERAL THIEU SAID THAT SOLDIERS MUST REMEMBER THAT MAINTENANCE OF DISCIPLINE IS NECESSARY. HE SAID HE HAS SIGNED A DECREE THAT THOSE WHO HAVE VIOLATED MILITARY REGULATIONS BUT HAVE BEEN REHABILITATED MAY HAVE THEIR RIGHTS RETURNED TO THEM.
31. THE NEXT QUESTIONER ASKED WHY GENERAL KY HAD SENT A LETTER TO THE US CONGRESS REPORTING ON THE VIETNAMESE ELECTIONS. WHEN THIS REFLECTED ON VIETNAMESE SOVEREIGNTY? THIEU SAID IN REPLY THAT THE LETTER WAS IN REPLY TO CHARGES THAT THE ELECTION WAS BEING UNFAIRLY CONDUCTED. IT WAS IN RESPONSE TO ATTEMPTS TO DISCREDIT THE ELECTIONS, BUT IT WAS NOT A REPORT.
32. THE FINAL QUESTIONER ASKED ABOUT KY'S ALLEGED REMARK THAT HE WOULD STAGE A COUP IF A CIVILIAN WERE ELECTED. DOES THAT MEAN THAT THIEU AND KY DO NOT RESPECT THE PEOPLE? TO THIS, THIEU REPLIED THAT KY HAD SAID SOMETHING PWKE THAT BUT HE THIEU HAS JUST RECENTLY SAID THAT WE WOULD RESPECT THE ELECTION RESULTS AND THAT THE ARMY WOULD SERVE ANY ELECTED REGIME.

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33. THIEU WAS STILL TALKING WHEN HE WAS CUT OFF BY THE TIMEKEEPER. HE STOPPED, THANKED THE PEOPLE FOR HEARING HIM AND SAT DOWN TO A BURST OF CHEERS AND APPLAUSE. MOST BUT NOT ALL OF THE SOLDIERS IN THE CROWD JOINED IN THE CHEERS AS DID NUMBER OF CIVILIANS.
34. TRAN VAN HUONG FOLLOWED THIEU PRESENTING HIS USUAL PLATFORM. HE MADE FAMILIAR POINT THAT VIETNAMESE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH FACILITIES TO FIGHT WAR SO THEY HAVE SOUGHT HELP FROM FRIENDS. HOWEVER, MILITARY MEANS ALONE CANNOT BRING PEACE. WE MUST HAVE POLITICAL MEANS. A SOLDIER MUST KNOW FOR WHOM HE SACRIFICES AND HE WILL NOT SACRIFICE FOR THOSE MAKING FORTUNES OUT OF THE WAR. TO HAVE PEACE WE MUST NEGOTIATE AND TO NEGOTIATE WE MUST HAVE SOME ADVANTAGE. SINCE WE DON'T HAVE AN ADVANTAGE AT PRESENT WE COULD ONLY NEGOTIATE ON TERMS OF THE ENEMY. BUNKER

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ACTION EA 19

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,CCO 00,SP 02,
SS 35,RPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,IO 21,AID 30,SAH 03,SAL 01,
ACDA 17,P 04,INR 07,L 03,H 02,RSR 01 /160 W

O R 261402Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5438
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3940
AMCONSUL DANANG 808
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2282
CINCPAC

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35. IN FIRST QUESTION HUONG WAS ASKED ABOUT FACT THAT FOREIGN PRESS HAD FOUND NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT HUONG'S CHARGES OF LOCAL PRESSURE ON HIS CAMPAIGNERS. HUONG REPLIF HE WILL PRODUCE EVIDENCE. A TEACHER ASKED WHY HUONG DIDN'T TAKE SIDE OF THE BUDDHISTS. MAI THO TRUYEN REPLIED THAT PEOPLE MAKING TROUBLE IN NAME OF BUDDHIST CHURCH ARE ONLY SMALL MINORITY. ANOTHER PERSON ASKED ABOUT PROMISES TO END CORRUPTION. NOTHING HAS

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BEEN DONE SO FAR. WEN INSPECTION TEAMS GO TO THE PROVINCES THE FACTS ARE DISTORTED. IF ELECTED, WHAT ACTION WILL YOU TAKE? HUONG REPLIED THAT HE WOULD MAKE NO PROMISES AND THAT THE QUESTION SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE GVN SLATE.

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36. HUONG WAS HARD TO HEAR, PARTLY BECAUSE HE SPOKE SOFTLY AND PARTLY BECAUSE THERE WAS SOME CONFUSION ON THE PLATFORM CAUSED Y AGRESSIVE FOREIGN PRESS, MOSTLY US. CROWD WAS SYMPATHETIC AND HUONG/TRUYEN SLTE RECEIVED WARM APPLAUSE.
37. TRAN VAN LY CAME TO THE STAND AND WENT OVER POINTS HE HAD MADE PREVIOUSLY. THE NATION HAS HAD TROUBLES FOR MANY YEARS BUT NOW WE HAVE A CONSTITUTION. CHOOSE CAREFULLY OR THE CONSEQUENCES WILL BE SERIOUS. LY RUNNING-MATE DUONG THEN READ THEIR PLATFORM. A MEMBER OF THE CROWD ASKED IF LY'S PLAN TO SIGN A LAW CLEARING OUT THE PRISONS MIGHT TURN CRIMINALS LOOSEON SOCIETY. LY REPLIED WITH A CHINESE PROVERB-RULE BY VIRTUE IS STRONG, RULE BY ORCE IS WEAK. ANOTHER PERSON ASKED WHY THE COST OF LIVING WAS RISING, WHAT LY WOULD DO ABOUT IT AND HOW

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LONG WOULD HE TKE? LY REPLIED COST OF LIVING HIGH BECAUSE PIASTERS HAS BEEN DEVALUED FROM 65 TO 118 PER DOLLAR AND BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT INTERNAL PRODUCTION. CITED NEED TO IMPORT RICE. TIME IMPROVEMENT TAKES WILL DEPEND ON TYPE OF PROGRAM, I.E. EMERGENCY, SHORT RANGE OR LONG RANGE. LY SAID AS EXAMPLE HE WOULD ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO RAISE PIGS. NEXT QUESTION WAS HOW LY WOULD BRING ABOUT PEACE. THE SITUATION AT THE BATTLE FRONT IS NOT SECURE SO HOW CAN YOU STABILIZE THE REAR AND BRING DOWN THE COST OF LIVING? LY GAVE AMBIGUOUS ANSWER, SAYING WE GIVE CREDIT TO ARMY FOR ITS ACHIEVEMENTS. AS FOR FACT THAT VIETNAMESE ARE KILLING VIETNAMESE, "THAT IS NOT OUR FAULT."
38. CROWD BEGAN TO DWINDLE AFTER HUONG/TRUYEN PRESENTATION. PRESS CONDUCTED INFORMAL INTERVIEW WITH THIEU ON PLATFORM AS LY SPOKE. THIEU LEFT DURING LY'S PRESENTATION, RUTHER DISTRACTING PEOPLE WHO WERE NOT MUCH INTERESTED IN HIM ANYWAY.
39. NGUYEN HOA HIEP WAS NEXT LAST TO SPEAK. ABOUT HALF OF CROWD WAS LEFT TO HEAR IM MAKE USUAL ARGUMENT THAT WAR CANNOT BE SETTLED BY MILITARY MEANS. HE SAID THAT

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HIS OBJECTIVE IS DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL IMPROVEMENT AND
THEN READ PLATFORM. THEN HE CALLED ON PEOPLE TO MAKE PROPER
USE OF THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE ANDSMAID HE WOULD NOT WITHDRAW
FROM THE RACE NO MATTER WHAT THE OBSTACLES. RUNNING-MATE
TRUYEN FOLLOWED WITH FAMILIAR SPEECH ABOUT HIS FAMILIARITY
WITH COMMUNIST LEADERS. HE MENTIONED HIEP HAD FORMED
THIRD DIVISION WHICH FOUGHT AGAINST FRENCH. HE STATED
THAT IF ELECTED HE WOULD HAVE HIS FRIENDS SUGGEST TO HO
CHI MINH THAT HE GO TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE. THE FIRST
QUESTION WAS ASKED BY MAN WHOSAID HE ADMIRED VNQDD BUT
DISWZKED THIRD DIVISION BECAUSE IT HAD NOT FOUGHT THE
FRECH, AND BESIDES HAD EXECUTED HIS BROTHER. HIEP
CLAIMED THE THIRD DIVISION HAD KILLED OME FRENCH AND THAT
IT HAD ACCORDED PRISONERS A FAIR TRIAL, KILLING ONLY THOSE
WHO COOPERATED WITH FRENCH. NEXT QUESTION WAS WOULD HIEP
THINK OF YOUNG PEOPLE IF ELECTED? HE REPLIED THAT ALONG
WITH RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS HE WOULD CORRECT
MILITARY SERVICE SYSTEM AND SEND AGED MEN BACK TO THEIR
FAMILIES. ANOTHER QUESTIONER COMPLAINED ABOUT
AMERICANS GIVING CANDY TO CHILDREN AND WAS PROMPTLY
SHOUTED DOWN WITH LAUGHTER BY REMNANTS OF CROWD. HIEP

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SAID CHILDREN TAKING RWNDY OFFERED BY AMECRCANS WAS
NORMAL.
USUAL PLATFORM. AS QUAT SPOKE, CROWD COMPLETED EXODUS.
COMMENT: THE MEETING WENT OFF VERY WELL. DR. DAN TOLD
EMBOFF IN CONVERSATION IN SIGON AFTER THE MEETING THAT
HE WAS VERY PLEASED, BOTH AT THE ARRANGEMENTS IN MY THONX
AND THE FACT
THAT THIEU HAD APPEARED. DAN ALSO NOTED
WITH SATISFACTION THAT THIEU HAD BEEN ASKED SOME FAIRLY
TOUGH QUESTIONS, AND BY MILITARY PERSONNEL AT THAT.
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